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THE RESULTS OF SOME RURAL SOCIAL SURVEYS IN IOWA¹

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The highest achievement to which civilization can aspire is maximum human well-being, and to point the way to this goal is the business of the student and leader of men. In order, therefore, that he may be enabled to set both the danger-signals and the sign-posts along the road civilization must travel, the student, through his science and leadership, must not only find means whereby abnormal and undesirable conditions can be restored to the normal and desirable state, but must also determine means of prevention and invention: prevention of that which would impair human well-being and invention or discovery of that which will increase human weal or human happiness.

It is to the student and leader that society looks for its remedial and preventive suggestions and measures. Society is no longer satisfied to proceed on the hit-or-miss or the put-the-cart-before-the-horse method. It is no longer willing to take the leap into the dark, but rather persists in emphasizing its belief, that in first knowing definitely what conditions now are, there may be secured a clearer idea as to what conditions might be, as well as a clue or guide to the realization of what might be. It insists that the next step in the social field is not theorizing but the gathering and compiling of more facts.

With the advancement of the human race there comes an ever growing complexity of human relationships and an ever increasing interdependence of individuals upon each other. This is the day

¹ Since this paper was to be read before an association that is primarily interested in the study of economic problems, the writer has emphasized chiefly economic conditions and such other conditions, which the two surveys revealed, as are rather closely related to these economic conditions. The more purely sociological conditions and information that reveals the social mind of the communities have been purposely omitted. Believing, however, that most economists are mindful of the importance of the rural social mind and rural social conditions, the writer has taken the liberty to add a few of the questions asked that revealed the social mind, and just a few statements concerning the social life in one of the townships. The figures in this paper appear in Bulletins No. 170 and No. 171, by the same author, of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. These bulletins are social surveys of the respective townships.

of specialization in work and of generalization in citizenship. That is to say, man as a workman is more and more limiting his activities to a narrower field, he is specializing, while his experiences and responsibilities as a citizen of society are constantly expanding. In the day of undifferentiated employments man was most independent, whereas, in this day of division of labor within differentiated employments, he is most interdependent. Today the same individual, in pursuing his responsibilities as a workman and his duties as a citizen of society, is subjected to experiences which tend to produce in him opposite results. However, it is precisely in meeting this dual experience that he also faces the dual problem of life which all must meet: the problem of getting a living and the problem of living with and among his fellowmen.

In the past the scientist devoted his energies almost entirely to assisting man in his endeavor to meet the first of these two problems, the problem of getting a living. In the past it was probably proper that he should do so, for the possible standard of living and the stage reached by civilization did not, for the most part, permit man to divide the day into more than two parts, a time for work and a time for sleep. Today the higher stage reached by civilization makes it possible, and a better standard of living demands, that the day be divided into three parts: a part for work, a part for sleep, and a part for leisure, recreation, or, as it is sometimes spoken of, higher life. This threefold division of the day, together with the specialization of man as a workman and the generalization of man as a citizen, so characteristic of this age, brings into full interplay both of these problems of life that man must meet. Therefore, the scientist, or investigator, must be mindful of both, if he is to be of greatest service to his day and age. In order to enable him to render such service in the most efficacious way he must first know how men are trying to meet these problems and with what success they are accomplishing their end. Having this information he will probably be in a position to suggest improved lines of action to achieve what is already being done and also point out new lines of action to effect other desirable results. To secure this information the student of social problems properly resorts to the social survey, or original investigation.

Such a survey or investigation may be briefly defined as taking an inventory of a community's activities and conditions, or a community stock-taking.

The aim of such a study is twofold: first, to get a true-to-life picture of the community in its every walk of life; and, second, to take back to this community this true-to-life picture of itself by disseminating knowledge of this picture among the members of that community, hoping in this way to create a fuller appreciation, on the part of the members of the community, of its desirable features because they are better known, and creating at the same time a more active determination, on the part of the members of the same community, to eliminate its undesirable features, because they too have come to be better known and have been brought out into a bolder relief across the plane of that community's well-being. From this it is at once obvious that the purpose of the social survey is not "to show-up" a community but "to build up" a community.

The method of study and the scope or field to be covered by the student in making a social survey must be determined mainly by the object he has in view in making the investigation. If his study is to be intensive and specific, or a study that involves very definite and detailed information, rather than extensive and aiming at generalizations only, he must of necessity attempt to cover only limited areas in individual studies. This must be done for the reason that regions where the same conditions are likely to prevail with somewhat of the same degree of regularity and intensiveness are limited in area. A study, therefore, that is to reveal community characteristics in detail must be limited by community boundaries. It is not always possible to determine absolutely where the community boundaries are, but to neglect them entirely will mean that such an intensive study does not very accurately reveal the conditions of either the entire area covered or any part thereof, and cannot therefore serve as the best possible guide for advancing the interests of the area included in the study. In order to secure this detailed information the investigator will find it necessary to interview either personally, or through his trained assistants, each family that resides in the territory covered by his study, that he may secure the information at the source and at first-hand. Having interviewed all the families in this way, he should then check up the information thus secured in every way that is available to him, in order to eliminate, as far as possible, exaggerations, misrepresentations, and omissions in his data.

It is this type of survey that this paper deals with in the presentation of the facts that we are to consider presently.

If the study is to be of the extensive type, if only general information is sought, or if the student wishes to know only what the general tendencies are and is not looking for very clearly defined lines of demarcation, than a much larger area may be included in his study, and he need not always personally interview each family which resides within the region covered by his study. Often several well-informed persons of that, or near-by regions, can, between them, give him the information he desires. Such a study is, of course, chiefly intended to furnish the investigator with some desired information, often without any particular thought of what seems to me to be the greater function of such research, serving as a guide to the people of the region studied to the end of enlarging their own welfare. An intensive study may serve then as a very definite guide to the people of the region studied, and also offer helpful suggestions to other communities as to how they may best go about improving their conditions. Since there are no two identical communities, it cannot be a complete guide to such other communities, for the obvious reason that it is not an exact revelation of their conditions. In the case of the extensive study not a great deal may be expected of it in either of these services, because its revelations are not specific enough to suggest clear-cut programs of procedure to achieve either of the these ends.

The value of a survey is very largely determined by the accuracy of the data collected. The best way to secure most accurate data, I believe, is to put the work of collecting them on such a basis that the people of the community will give one the data asked for voluntarily and without hesitation. It is human nature to feel that one is important, and if, therefore, you seek the honest coöperation of others, the surest way to get it is to give them an opportunity to play an important part in the scheme and allow them to take to themselves considerable credit for having played their part. This is the method that I pursue in the work we are doing in Iowa. That is to say, I first consult with the County Agent, if there is one, and a few of the leading men and women of the community as to the purpose of such a study and the coöperation they think could be secured in carrying on a piece of research of this kind in their locality. If these persons think the time is ripe for work of this kind in their locality, I make a trip to the community and put the proposition before the people at some public meeting, usually several months before we

are ready to begin the work in the field. After this meeting the proposition is left with them to be talked over *pro* and *con* for some time before a final decision is made as to whether or not the study is to be made. In passing, I may say that such a proposition may well be considered at some community meeting, such as is usually to be found in most communities today. It has been considered on such programs in Iowa.

If the community votes to have the study made, a survey committee is appointed, composed wholly of members of the community, which is to serve as a sort of advisory council to my assistants and myself when we enter the field to collect the data. Any question that may arise about the work is referred to this committee or some member thereof. This same committee also talks up the proposition to any who may be somewhat inclined to oppose the work, or who they think may hesitate to give us the data asked for in our house-to-house canvass. I see to it that this committee is representative of all chief interests, creeds, etc., found in the community.

Along this same line, I emphasize, in all of my conferences with the people of the community or representatives thereof, that this is their work and not ours, that we merely stand ready to make the study for them. In this way they take a just pride in it, because they feel that they are a long step ahead of the community that will not coöperate in making a study of itself, or that has not yet been asked to do so. In keeping the work on this plane, I have found that the people of the community who have once voted to study themselves in this way will gladly submit themselves for sociological clinic work, because they feel that thus they will learn to know their virtues better, and, what is no less important, find a way to heal their own sores.

While in the field both my assistants and I live right with the people. This has the advantage of putting us in close and intimate touch with the people we are studying. In this way we learn much about the social mind of the people which one would not get in any other way. It is the one way in which they will "loosen up to you," as the saying goes.

By following this method I have every reason to believe that one can with equal frankness and boldness emphasize the desirable and undesirable features which the data reveal concerning the community, and have the community use both to its own self-improvement, rather than become indignant at the undesirable

revelations. My reason for believing this lies chiefly in the fact that in the two communities which we have studied to date many of the most influential members of each community repeatedly said to me, in substance, *Make a careful study of our conditions, do not spare us in any way, we want to know both our credits and our debits.* It is at once apparent that communities of this type have come to believe that if for the individual the height of wisdom is to know himself, the same must be true for the community also. If the work can be placed and kept on such a footing, I contend that high achievements may be expected of it. Communities that do things on such a basis are operating under a moral pride that has been harnessed up to carry out a civic need.

Before taking up the details of the studies we have made in Iowa I must burden you with a few explanations concerning the regions studied. A criticism that may at first be leveled against the work is that we studied communities that are above the average of our state rather than those on a low level in general well-being. That being the case, it can scarcely be expected that our studies will help the communities studied as they might had we studied a type of communities less advanced. My answer to such a criticism would be: first, that no community is so nearly perfect that it cannot profit greatly by a study of itself; and second, and this is the chief answer, that it is not easy to make a study, successfully, where many searching and even personal questions are asked, in the more backward communities. Such communities have not yet awakened from a lethargy of self-conceit or self-satisfaction to the extent that they can be led to appreciate that a study of this kind is intended for something greater than "showing up a community." From communities that are still in such a "clam" stage one cannot hope to secure much information except of a very general type, such as an investigator could secure by observation, or information that is very much exaggerated. They are not ready to study themselves. But by studying a few of the more advanced communities first, we hope to be able to go from the top down to these less advanced communities, by being able to take to them, in black and white, what has already been accomplished by other communities. If the accomplishments of other communities can be brought to them in unmistakable terms, we believe that they will begin to talk of their own conditions, compare themselves with others, and when this is once well under way solutions will also be forthcoming in these localities.

A second criticism that might be raised against the work is, that the areas covered and the number of people involved in each study is too small to warrant drawing hard and fast conclusions as to the conditions to be found over the state generally. To this I would reply: first, that our work in Iowa, as in most regions, is still in its incipency; and second, that we do not wish to be understood as concluding from these studies that they reveal conditions generally for the entire state, for we feel quite certain that they do not, but that on the contrary other communities differ from these communities just as these differ from each other. All that we wish to contend is that these studies do reveal conditions in their respective localities, and that to know conditions in other localities similar studies must of necessity be made. Of course, no one would propose a study like this of every township in the state, but enough fairly representative townships, or communities, should be studied in different parts of the state to give us a fairly representative cross-section view of conditions generally, to serve as a scientifically practical basis for constructive work.

The scope of this paper includes two civil townships, both in the northern half of the state, one in Blackhawk County, known as Orange Township, and the other in Clay County, known as Lone Tree Township. Orange Township is a strictly rural township containing no incorporated village or town, while Lone Tree has one small incorporated village of 472 persons. The village population and the land within the incorporation were not included in our study. Orange Township is also not of regular size. The conditions in Orange Township are possibly a little above the rural average for the county, while the conditions in Lone Tree Township are more nearly average for the county. Both townships are mixed farming regions, that is, both grain and stock-growing regions. The chief crops grown are corn, oats, and hay.

In both of these studies I have listed as owner, unless otherwise stated, both those farmers who own all the land they operate and those who have a part interest in the land they operate. In case of the latter each happens to own one-half interest. Then I have listed as tenants, unless otherwise stated, all farmers who rent all the land they operate and also those who rent the places they live on, even though they do own some land in addition to the places they live on. In case of the latter a few farmers operate the land they own in addition to the land they rent, but the average holding of this entire group of tenant farmers is much smaller than the

farms they rent and live on; thus it seemed fairer to class them as tenants, especially since some of the holdings of this class lie outside of the state. Furthermore, only a small proportion of the entire number of farmers is included in the part-owner group and the group of tenants that own some land in addition to the farms they rent and live on, as will be observed from the figures given below.

The number of farms, as that term is to be understood in this paper, means the number of farms that have residences on them.

Hereafter these regions will be referred to as Orange Township and Lone Tree Township, respectively.

POPULATION AND CONJUGAL CONDITIONS

The 1910 Federal Census, Supplement for Iowa, gives the state of Iowa a population density of 40 persons per square mile. For the rural state it is 27.8 persons per square mile. Blackhawk County has a rural density of 23.3 and Clay County 17.3. The 1915 Census of Iowa, classing as rural those who do not live in incorporated places, gives Blackhawk County a rural density of 20.8 and Clay 15.1.¹ The 1915 Census of Iowa also gives Orange Township a population of 780 and Lone Tree Township, exclusive of the incorporated village of Everly, 405. The density of population for Orange Township is 23.56 persons per square mile, and for Lone Tree Township it is 13.47 persons.

Our data, so far as they pertain to the population, were a study on the family basis. In this were included all members of the family now living, whether they were living in the township or not. There are also some duplications, arising from cases where parents and children now comprise different families, but both living in the township. On this basis we found the population, including hired help but excluding other persons living with the farmers' families, to be 802 in Orange Township and 482 in Lone Tree Township.

Country of Birth.—Of the owner operators of Orange Township 85 were born in the United States, 1 in Germany, and 1 in Canada.² Of the wives 78 were born in the United States and one in Canada.³ Of the tenants 53 were born in the United States, 1 in Ireland, 1 in Sweden, and 2 in Denmark.⁴ Of the tenants'

¹ P. xxiv.

² This includes one case of joint operators and 2 women operators.

³ Five owners have no wives.

⁴ This includes one case of joint tenants and 1 woman tenant.

wives 44 were born in the United States, 2 in Denmark, 1 in Poland, 1 in Canada, 1 in Ireland, and 1 in Sweden.⁵

Of the owner operators in Lone Tree Township 19 were born in the United States and 11 in Germany.⁶ Eighteen operators' wives were born in the United States, 9 in Germany, and 1 in Ireland. The country of birth for the tenants is as follows: United States, 30, German 19, Denmark 4, France 1, Sweden 1, and Canada 1.⁷ Tenants' wives gave as their country of birth: United States 31, Germany 12, Denmark 4, and Sweden 2.⁸

Of the 84 male owner-operators in Orange Township all but 5 are married, while of the 55⁹ tenant men all but 7 are married.

In the other township 28 of the 29 male owners¹⁰ are married, and 48 of the 55 male tenants are married.

The average age, at the time of marriage, of tenants in Orange Township was found to be three months greater than that of all landowners, at the time of their marriage. The age for tenants was 25 years and 7 months.

In Lone Tree Township the comparative age was three years less, the average age of tenants, at the time of marriage, in this township, being 24 years and 9 months.

The average size of the owner-operator's family in Orange Township is $5\frac{3}{4}$ persons and for tenants it is $3\frac{2}{3}$ persons, while the corresponding figures in Lone Tree Township are $6\frac{1}{3}$ and $4\frac{3}{5}$.

How Generally Do Farmers' Daughters Marry Farmers? and How Generally Do Farmers' Sons Stay on the Farm?—The number of children in Orange Township 20 years old or older is 104; 54 males and 50 females. Of the males 76 $\frac{8}{27}$ per cent and of the females 84 per cent are now on the farm or stated that they expected to go back to the farm. Twenty-eight of the 50 females

⁵ This includes 2 housekeepers who are either sister or mother of tenant, while 7 tenants have no wives.

⁶ One of these operators is a woman and one has no wife.

⁷ As noted from the above figures the population in both townships is, for the most part, native born. In both townships, however, the population is largely of German descent, in Orange Township largely Pennsylvania German. These people are commonly known as Dunkards. Those of these who belong to church are members either of the Church of the Brethren or of the First Brethren Church. In the other township there is quite a large German-Lutheran element.

⁸ Seven tenants have no wives.

⁹ This lists the joint-tenants as one.

¹⁰ One owner-operator is a woman.

TABLE I
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

	Farms with Residences	Operated by Owners		Operated by Tenants		Average Size of Farm Operated by Owner	Average Size of Farm Operated by Tenant		Average Size of Farm Operated by Half Owner		Average Size of Farm Rented by Tenant and of Tenant's Holdings			
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent		Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Acres
Orange Township 1915	142	86	60.6	56	39.4	148.5	139.8 ¹	6	152	{ 6 4 ³	{ 85.8 167.7	6	61.6	
Lone Tree Township 1916	85	30	35.3	55	64.7	226.3	253.7	1	240	{ 2 5 ⁴	{ 270.0 226.6	2	140.0	
Blackhawk County														
1900	2,257 ⁵	1,418	62.8	830 ⁶	36.6	— ⁷	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1910	2,168 ⁸	1,248	57.6	920 ⁶	41.9	156.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1915	2,071 ⁸	1,152	55.6	919	44.4	158.9	158.8	159.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clay County														
1900	1,684 ⁵	953	56.6	731 ⁶	42.5	— ⁷	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1910	1,668 ⁸	906	54.3	762 ⁶	45.2	201.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1915	1,651 ⁸	826	50.0	825	50.0	203.2	203.2	203.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
State														
1900	228,622 ⁵	147,305	64.4	79,736 ⁶	34.9	135.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1910	217,044 ⁸	133,003	61.3	82,115 ⁶	37.8	156.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1915	199,755 ⁸	117,748 ¹⁰	59.0	82,007	41.0	164.0	144.2	194.6	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Including the one-half owner farms.

² Including the tenant-holder farms of the last column.

³ Three of these tenants own 185 acres outside of the township, the fourth owns 160 acres within the township, which is rented, while he himself rents a 240-acre farm.

⁴ These tenants own 572 acres outside the township, an average of 114.4, which they do not operate themselves.

⁵ *Federal Census*, 1910, *Supplement for Iowa*, p. 659.

⁶ Managers are here included with tenants.

⁷ *Federal Census*, 1910, *Supplement for Iowa*, pp. 648-650.

⁸ *Census of Iowa*, 1915, pp. 641-643. This census omits farms of less than 10 acres.

⁹ Exclusive of farms operated by managers.

¹⁰ *Census of Iowa*, 1915, p. cxv.

are married. Twenty-one of these, or 75 per cent, are married to farmers.

In Lone Tree Township there are 81 children 20 years of age or over; 47 of these are males and 34 females. Thirty-seven of the males, or $79 \frac{7}{47}$ per cent, and 28 females, or $82 \frac{6}{17}$ per cent, are now on the farm, or stated that they expected to go back to the farm. Of the 34 females 21 are married. Of the females married 15, or $71 \frac{3}{7}$ per cent are married to farmers.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

If all the farms in Orange Township that are less than 10 acres in size are disregarded, the average size of farm in the township is 157.2 acres; that operated by owner 150.1 acres; and that operated by tenant 167.8 acres.

The largest land holding in Orange Township is 734 acres, in Lone Tree 892 acres. The smallest farm in Orange Township is $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, the smallest in Lone Tree is 80 acres. The largest tract operated by one man in Orange Township is 480 acres, in Lone Tree 652 acres. In both cases the farm is operated by the owner.

Distance from Trading Center.—The average distance to the family's chief trading center is 4.5 miles in Orange Township and 2.4 miles in Lone Tree Township.

Relationship Between Tenants and Landlords.—Twenty-three of the tenants of Orange Township are either sons or sons-in-law of their landlords. Two others are first cousins of their landlord, and one is a second cousin of his landlord. This makes a total of 26 tenants, or almost 50 per cent, who are related to their landlords.

The relationship between tenants and landlords in Lone Tree Township runs as follows: 1 brother; 2 brothers-in-law; 10 sons or sons-in-law; and 1 nephew, or a total of 14 tenants, or 25 per cent, who are closely related to their landlords.

Tenants Expect to Become Land Owners.—Of the tenants in Orange Township who do not now own land 71.7 per cent stated that they expected to become landowners. Of these 50 per cent expect to become owners through purchase, or through purchase and inheritance, and 21.7 per cent by inheritance only.

The comparative figures for Lone Tree Township are: $77 \frac{1}{12}$ per cent; $56 \frac{1}{4}$ per cent¹ and $20 \frac{5}{6}$ per cent. Only a few of these men expected to both purchase and inherit land.

From Tables I and II it will be observed that in both townships

TABLE II

Township	No. of Land-lords ¹	No. of Land-lords still Farming	No. of Land-lords still Farming in Township	Average Holdings in Acres of these Land-lords in Township	No. of Land-lords Retired	No. Retired on Farm in Township	No. Retired Landlords Who once Lived on Farm in Township	Aver. Holdings in Acres of Retired Landlords in Township
Orange	55 ²	12	5 ²	241	22	8	15	168.9
Lone Tree	54 ²	12	8 ²	571.5	19	2	12	251.34

¹ Landlords engaged in business or some profession are not listed in following columns.

² One man has three farms, two of which are rented.

the largest landholders are men who are both landlords and owner-operators, that is, men who own two or more farms, one of which is operated by the owner and the others are rented. The second largest landholders are the retired-farmer landlords. Table III shows the ages of these landholders.

Rise in Land Values.—In Orange Township 6935.66 acres, in 48 tracts, changed hands in the five-year period, August, 1910, to August, 1915. These 48 original tracts were divided into 60 parts at the time of sale. In most cases where the tracts were divided the parts were added to other farms. The average selling price per acre for this land by years, for both improved farms and unimproved farms, that is, farms with buildings and farms without buildings, runs as follows: 1910, \$156; 1911, \$163; 1912, \$164; 1913, \$178; 1914, \$188; 1915, \$200. Twenty-five tracts were sold in 1913, 1914, and 1915 up to August 30.

In Lone Tree Township we ascertained how many farms had been purchased in the ten-year period 1906-1915 inclusive, the purchase price per acre and present value per acre, as stated by the owner or tenant on the farm. During this period 31 farms were purchased, a total of 6174.5 acres, or only 436.5 acres less than the present holdings of the land-owning operators. Eight of these men did not state a present price on their land, 23 did. The average cost price for these 23, involving 4494.5 acres, was \$103.82 per acre, and the present value put upon these farms was \$207.26 per acre. Of these 23 farms, 3 were purchased in 1906; 3 in 1907; 3 in 1908; none in 1909; 3 in 1910; 3 in 1911; 1 in

TABLE III

Township	Average Age of Owner- Operator	Average Age of Land- lords	Average Age of Landlords still Farming	Average Age of Retired Landlords	Average Time Owner- Operators Have Been Farming	Average Time on Present Farm	Average Time Tenants Have Been Farming	Average Time on Present Farm
Orange	yrs. mos. 50	yrs. mos. 53 9	yrs. mos. 45 9	yrs. mos. 58 9	yrs. mos. 21 11	yrs. mos. 10 11	yrs. mos. 10 5	yrs. mos. 5 8
Lone Tree	47 9	52 2½	45	59 10	24 1	14 12	8 4	4 2

1912; 5 in 1913; 1 in 1914; and 1 in 1915, or an average of 5.91 years since date of purchase. Just how closely this rise in land values corresponds to the general rise in prices the writer did not stop to consider.

Hired Help.—In Orange Township 37 tenants have 47 hired men and 11 tenants have 1 hired woman each. Twenty-four land owners have 36 hired men and 8 landowners have 9 hired women.

Twenty-four tenants in Lone Tree Township were found to have 24 hired men and 3 tenants had 1 hired woman each. Eleven of the landowners had 1 hired man each, and one landowner had 1 hired woman.

Period of Ownership.—Farm has been in the possession of family in Orange Township $19\frac{1}{4}$ years, in Lone Tree Township, based on 56, out of a possible 85, definite replies, $15\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Patronage of Mail Order Houses and Peddlers.—In Orange Township, 58 per cent of the owner operators and 76+ per cent of tenants buy from mail-order houses. In the other township 80 per cent of owner operators and 83+ per cent of the tenants buy from the same source. In both townships, however, the owner operators' purchases per family amount to one and one-third times as much as that of the tenants.¹¹ In both townships the number of families that buy from peddlers and the amounts so spent are too small to be of any real significance, the actual number of families in both townships which buy from peddlers being 16 and the total amount so spent per year being \$99.

ORGANIZATIONS AND EDUCATION¹²

Orange Township

Owners.—Thirty-one owners belong on an average to 2 $11/31$ farmers' organizations; 30 owners' wives belong on an average to $1\frac{1}{2}$ women's organizations. Twenty-five owners carry life insurance; 1 owner's wife carries life insurance. One owner belongs to a lodge;¹³ no owner's wife belongs to a lodge.

¹¹ The writer, basing his belief on various sources of information that he has secured in recent years, is of the opinion that rural people are little, if any, better patrons of mail-order houses than other classes are.

¹² The chief farmers' organizations in Orange Township are: Coöperative Creamery, Coöperative Cow-Testing Association; Coöperative Egg-Marketing Association; Coöperative Threshing Companies; Farmers' Telephone Company. In Lone Tree Township the chief farmers' organizations are: Coöperative Threshing Companies; Farmers' Telephone Company.

¹³ The Dunkards do not believe in lodges of any kind.

Tenants.—Thirteen tenants belong on an average to 2 9/13 farmers' organizations; 18 tenants' wives belong on an average to 1 1/3 women's organizations. Twenty-five tenants carry life

TABLE IV
MODERN CONVENIENCES

TOWNSHIP	ORANGE		LONE TREE	
Total Number of Houses	142	85	85	73
Size of Home in Rooms	8 ²	7 ³	14	5
Running Water	57	1	15	15
Indoor Cistern and Pump	—	1	3	15
Bathub	47	34	16	47
Indoor Toilet	16	47	68	36
Electric Lights	47	68	36	76
Gas Lights	68	36	76	75
Power Washer	36	76	75	72
Electric or Gas Iron	76	75	72	182
Carpet Sweeper	75	72	182	55
Vacuum Cleaner	72	182	55	29
Furnace, Hot Water or Steam Heat	182	55	29	47
Telephone	55	29	47	80
Refrigerator	29	47	80	—
Gas Cook Stove	47	80	—	1
Oil Cook Stove	80	—	1	45
Pianos	—	1	45	75
Other Musical Instruments	1	45	75	—
Sleeping Porch	45	75	—	1
Automobile	75	—	1	1
Manure Spreader	—	1	1	1
Grain Elevator	—	1	1	1
Gas Engine	—	1	1	1
Silo	—	1	1	1

Fiske, *The Challenge of the Country*, p. 258, footnote: "Ninety-five and two tenths per cent of the 300,000 rural homes in Ohio last year (1911) had no bathtubs." In Orange Township there are bathtubs in 33 per cent of the homes, and in Lone Tree in 17.6 per cent of the homes.

MacDougall, *Rural Life in Canada*, p. 128: "The Agricultural Survey of 1910 found that in Prince Edward Island 97 per cent of the farm houses obtain water from wells outside the house. All carry the water by hand. In Nova Scotia only 2 per cent of the farm houses have water piped to the house. In New Brunswick 95 per cent obtain water from wells and springs. In English speaking Quebec 92 per cent carry water by hand. These conditions are general."

Orange Township has over one-half as many bathtubs as cars, three fewer modern heating systems, over one-half as many sleeping porches, four-fifths as many homes with running water, and one-half as many indoor toilets. Lone Tree Township has three and one-fourth times as many cars as bathtubs, two times as many grain elevators, three times as many gas engines, and four and one-half times as many manure spreaders.

Iowa has a little better than one car to every 13 persons. Orange Township has one to a little more than 10 persons, and Lone Tree a car to a little more than 8 persons.

¹ This not ascertained in this township.

² Twenty-five of these are owned by tenants.

³ This includes 1 shower bath.

⁴ Of these 11 are organs, 9 violins, 4 accordions, 7 horns, 2 guitars, 1 mandolin, 1 victrola, and 8 phonographs.

⁵ Twenty-five of these are owned by tenants.

insurance; 2 tenants' wives carry life insurance. Eleven tenants belong to some lodge; 4 tenants' wives belong to some lodge.

Lone Tree Township

Owners.—Fifteen owners belong on an average to 1 1/5 farmers' organizations; 9 owners' wives belong on an average to 1 1/9 women's organizations. Seven owners carry life insurance; no owner's wife carries life insurance. Six owners belong to lodge; 4 owners' wives belong to lodge.

Tenants.—Twenty-five tenants belong on an average to 1 1/25 farmers' organizations; 11 tenants' wives belong on an average to 1 women's organization. Twenty-one tenants carry life insurance; 1 tenant's wife carries life insurance. Seven tenants belong to some lodge; 1 tenant's wife belongs to a lodge.

The figures in Tables V, VI, and VII indicate that the average education of adults in Orange Township is high. Other figures seem to indicate that there is a still greater tendency in this direction among the young people of the township. Iowa is said to have something over 22 persons out of every thousand of its population in high school.¹⁵ In this township there were, in 1914, 32 persons in high school. Twenty-eight of these young people were 4 was this the fourth year. A very large proportion of these young people stated that they expected to complete the four-year high school course. Thus the fact that so few completed their fourth year in 1914 indicates that there is a rapidly growing tendency for young people in this township to carry their school work beyond the grade school. Eight persons were in college or university.

In 1916 the township completed its consolidated grade school, with a high school attached. This consolidates ten one-room schools. The bonds voted for the erection of the building were sold at a premium of \$915.

The teachers who taught the one-room schools for the year 1915-16 had an average teaching experience of 6 1/4 years. The average teaching experience of the rural teachers in the Central West is less than one-half as long, our state superintendents of public instruction tell us.

On November 1, 1915, only 3 children in the township who had not completed the eighth grade school work were not enrolled in

¹⁵ Iowa Accredited High Schools, 1915-16, *Bulletin* No. 5, State Board of Education. Exact figure, 22.4.

TABLE V
EDUCATION OF PERSONS 21 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

	Common or Grammar School					High or Preparatory School					College						
	Total	Years					Total	Years				Total	Years				
		4 or Less	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	
Orange Township																	
Owners	54 ¹	—	3	2	7	42	61	2	1	—	3	27	11	7	1	8	
Owners' Wives ²	52	—	2	2	10	38	9	1	2	—	6	18	5	5	2	6	
Tenants	29 ³	2	1	1	3	22	11 ³	1	4	2	4	18 ³	10	5	1	2	
Tenants' Wives ⁴	26	1	1	—	2	22	7	1	1	1	4	15	4	5	3	3	
Lone Tree Township																	
Owners	25	—	—	—	—	25	2	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	3	
Owners' Wives ⁵	28	—	—	—	—	28	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tenants	39	1	—	—	1	37	11	4	—	1	6	5	1	—	—	3	
Tenants' Wives ⁶	36	1	—	—	1	34	10	2	2	1	5	2	—	—	1	1	
Blackhawk County ⁷																	
Males	12,199	1,136	373	1,280	1,307	8,103	2,711	342	708	642	1,019	2,372	845	612	296	619	
Females	9,962	446	280	935	962	7,339	3,757	499	786	874	1,598	2,471	910	717	339	505	
Clay County ⁷																	
Males	3,491	187	107	311	310	2,576	506	109	128	78	191	439	171	92	58	118	
Females	2,742	62	63	170	213	2,234	706	120	160	109	317	357	146	92	64	55	
State ⁷																	
Males	559,876	50,053	23,570	53,128	55,097	388,028	82,901	15,036	22,736	14,340	30,769	67,036	23,340	16,366	8,165	19,165	
Females	478,199	30,360	16,255	42,891	45,961	342,732	120,699	16,472	27,159	20,772	56,296	67,706	21,249	16,869	7,042	12,546	

¹ Including 2 women operators and 1 operator's family of 2 men.

² Five owners have no wives.

³ Including 1 woman tenant and two instances of 2 tenants to a farm.

⁴ Seven tenants have no wives.

⁵ One owner has no wife.

⁶ Seven tenants have no wives.

⁷ Figures from *Census of Iowa, 1915*.

TABLE VI
RELATIVE NUMBERS OF PERSONS 21 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER WITH SPECIFIED EDUCATION

	Total	Common or Grammar School		High or Preparatory School		College	
		Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Orange Township, Farmers and Farmers' Wives							
Males	145	83	57.2	17	11.7	45	31.0
Females	127	98	61.4	16	12.6	33	26.0
Lone Tree Township, Farmers and Farmers' Wives							
Males	85 ¹	64	75.3	13	15.3	8	9.4
Females	76	63	82.9	11	14.5	2	2.6
Blackhawk County							
Males	17,450	12,199	69.9	2,711	15.5	2,372	13.6
Females	16,257	9,962	61.3	3,757	23.1	2,471	15.2
Clay County							
Males	4,457	3,491	78.3	506	11.4	439	9.8
Females	3,818	2,742	71.8	706	18.5	357	9.5
State							
Males	720,134	559,876	77.7	82,901	11.5	67,036	9.3
Females	663,247	478,199	72.1	120,699	18.2	57,706	8.7

¹ Including one woman operator.

TABLE VII
EDUCATION OF HIRED HELP

	Total	Orange Township		Lone Tree Township	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
Total Hired Help	142	83 ¹	20	35 ²	4
Common or Grammar School					
4 years or less	83	3	—	—	—
5 years	3	2	1	—	—
6 years	8	7	1	—	—
7 years	3	2	1	—	—
8 years	71	36	13	18	4
High or Preparatory School					
1 year	2	1	1	—	—
2 years	6	6	—	—	—
3 years	2	2	—	—	—
4 years	2	1	—	1	—
College or University					
1 year	6	3	3	—	—
2 years	2	2	—	—	—
3 years	—	—	—	—	—
4 years	6	6 ³	—	—	—

¹ Not ascertained in 12 cases.

² Not ascertained in 16 cases.

³ One man is a university graduate.

some one of the eight open district schools of the township.¹⁶ Each of the eight teachers had had some college training.

Attitude on Consolidation.—The township voted on consolidation while we were in the township collecting data. This was the second time the proposition was voted on. Consolidation was given a majority at this election, but it is interesting to note the line-up of tenants and owner operators as revealed to us in collecting data on this proposition. Forty-one tenants favored consolidation, 11 opposed, and 4 were neutral. Fifty-four owners favored it, 12 opposed, 7 neutral, and 13 non-committal.¹⁷

Township Literary Society.—In this township there is also what is known as the Township Literary Society. This meets in

¹⁶ Two of the 10 schools of the township were not opened in 1915-16. The children of these districts were transported to one of the other schools. There were too few children to warrant opening these schools.

¹⁷ Here the joint owners and joint tenants are listed as one, since in each case they took the same position.

what is now used as the Township Hall, formerly a church home of a denomination that has ceased to maintain itself in the township. This hall is located near the center of the township. The society meets every Friday night during the fall, winter, and spring months of the year. To this society belong most of the young people of the township, several of the hired men and women, and some of the farmers and their wives. Of the farmers and farmers' wives group, 10 men and their wives are tenants, and 19 men and 16 women are owners or owners' wives.

*Home Libraries.*¹⁸—Sixty-nine owners' homes in Orange Township No library of 8 books or less was listed.

ship have 7355 volumes, or an average of 106.6 volumes, in their libraries. Fifty-six tenant homes contain 5342 volumes, or an average of 95.4 volumes per home. In Lone Tree Township twenty-two owners' homes have 1913 volumes, or an average of 86.9 volumes per home. Twenty-four tenant homes have 1872 volumes, or an average of 77.5 volumes per home.

TABLE VIII
NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

	Orange Township		Lone Tree Township	
	Owners	Tenants	Owners	Tenants
Daily Papers	96	74	48	54
Homes ¹	76	56	27	48
Weekly Papers and Magazines .	225	168	91	111
Homes ¹	70	56	28	46
Monthly Papers and Magazines	58	110	63	86
Homes ¹	58	47	22	34
Farm Papers ²	192	145	72	72
Homes ¹	65	54	26	37

¹ When the number of homes is less than the number of homes of this group in the township, the other homes received no periodical of the kind specified. But there was no home without at least one kind.

² Farm papers are included in the other three classes, so the total number of periodicals received is indicated by the sum of the first three lists.

Mortality Statistics.—The total deaths in all families in the townships were: Orange Township, males, 25; females, 24. Lone Tree Township, males, 10; females, 14.

CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Orange Township.—Sixty-three owners' families contribute \$3371, or an average of \$53.50 each to church support, 2 additional men contribute their services free of charge; 55 owners' families contribute \$681.50, or an average of \$12.39 each to Sunday school; and 44 owners' families contribute \$1632, or an average of \$37.09 each to other benevolences.

Fifty-five tenant families contribute \$1367, or an average of \$24.86 each, to churches; 30 tenant families contribute \$242.20, or an average of \$8.07 each, to Sunday school; 35 tenant families contribute \$810, or an average of \$23.14 each, to other benevolences.

Lone Tree Township.—Twenty-three owners' families contribute \$1118.66, or an average of \$48.64 per family per year, to the

TABLE IX
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP OF OWNERS, TENANTS, AND WIVES

	Orange Township				Lone Tree Township			
	Owners' Homes		Tenants' Homes		Owners' Homes		Tenants' Homes	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Roman Catholic	7	6	5	6	4	5	5	4
Church of the Brethren	34	37	22	23	—	—	—	—
Presbyterian	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Methodist Episcopal	3	9	5	4	2	3	2	7
Progressive Brethren	5	5	4	5	—	—	—	—
Baptists	1	3	5	4	—	—	—	—
Lutheran	1	1	2	2	7	7	6	5
Evangelical Lutheran	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	1
Danish Lutheran	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3
German Lutheran	—	—	—	—	5	5	6	5
Friends	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Nameless Church	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Christian	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
United Brethren	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seventh Day Adventist	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Totals ¹	54	62	49	47	21	23	26	28

¹ Out of 142 men on farms in Orange Township 103 were church members, and among the women, 109 in a total of 130. In Lone Tree Township 47 out of 84 men and 51 out of 77 women were church members.

church;¹⁹ 7 families contribute \$86, or an average of \$12.28 each, to Sunday school; and 2 families contribute \$26, or an average of \$13 each, for other benevolences.

Thirty tenant families contribute \$532.87, or an average of \$17.77 each, to the church; 7 families contribute \$52.96, or an average of \$9.57 each, to the support of Sunday school; and 2 families contribute \$65, or an average of \$32.50 each, for other benevolences.²⁰

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP

Orange Township.—Fifty-two owners belong to Sunday school; 53 owners' wives belong to Sunday school.

Twenty-eight tenant men belong to Sunday school; 33 tenants' wives belong to Sunday school.

Lone Tree Township.—Two owners belong to Sunday school; 2 owners' wives belong to Sunday school.

Six tenant men belong to Sunday school; 6 tenants' wives belong to Sunday school.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND THE SOCIAL MIND

The Social Mind.—It is not within the time limit of this paper to consider the data collected that reveals the social mind of the people in these townships. Only a few of the more important questions asked each farmer, in this connection, can be cited. Many remarks made by the farmers' wives and children were recorded along with those of the farmers. By far the greater majority of these remarks clearly indicate the feeling and thought of the person making them, and are not merely passing remarks or remarks that mean nothing. From a sociological standpoint this part of the survey is probably the most important.

The more important questions asked were: (1) Do the farmer and his wife take any part in their children's games? What are the results? (2) Are the children encouraged to join clubs and societies of various kinds in the community? (3) Are the children given any holidays or half-holidays which they can count as their own, other than Sunday and the regular holidays? How often? How do they spend this time? Does it make any difference in their attitude toward work? What? (4) Is any attempt

¹⁹ If one family that tithes be omitted here, the average for the remaining families is \$19.03.

²⁰ From all the above figures it will be observed that the tenants make a splendid showing for themselves, contrary to a quite popular opinion.

TABLE X
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN

	Families ¹ Children	Children over 10 years		Children over 15 years		Children over 20 years	
		Total	Not Church Members	Total	Not Church Members	Total	Not Church Members
Orange Township							
Both parents, or surviving parent, church member	86	288 ²	22	143	7	94	4
Neither parent church member ³	15	32	32	14	14	4	4
Father member, mother not	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mother member, father not	14	29	17	12	7	4	4
No wife	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
No husband	1	4	4	2	2	2	2
Lone Tree Township							
Both parent, or surviving parent, church member	37	164 ²	15	95	12	61	7
Neither parent church member ³	21	53	19	13	13	5	5
Father member, mother not	2	11	8	2	2	—	—
Mother member, father not	7	19	14	14	10	10	6
No wife	1	9	8	7	—	5	—
No husband	1	9	9	9	—	9	—

¹ Families with no children are omitted. In Orange Township there are 19 such families, and in Lone Tree, 10. Including all children. Some of these no longer live in the township and some of the others appear also in the parent column.

³ It will be noted that when neither parent is a church member none of the children is a church member.

made to attach the children to the farm by giving them something that is to be their own, and a part in planning the work of the farm, etc.? (5) What in your opinion is the chief cause which leads boys and girls from the farm? (6) Have you any sugges-

tions to offer as to how this can be so overcome that a proper proportion of the most promising and enterprising young people will stay on the farm? (7) To what extent do families visit with each other on Sundays and other days of the week? (8) What do you consider the greatest need of the church today in order that it may (a) interest and help young people; (b) have the widest influence in the community generally? (9) How many picnics, contests, celebrations, fairs, socials, parties, games, etc., were held in the community last year, which were attended by all or part of the family?

Social Conditions.—Social life in Orange Township is a splendid example of what life on the farm can be made to be. This community is not dependent upon the “movies” and other things of the near-by town for its recreation and amusement. The people of the community never get too busy for a full-day or half-day picnic or community gathering, or for some social event at some neighbor’s home, the township hall, or the church. They have learned that there is a time for work and a time for play, and that more play often means more work also. In other words, they have learned that men and women, boys and girls, who enjoy life are more likely to enjoy work also than those who get little joy out of living. It is a community where everybody plays when play is the program. They have “things doing,” as modern slang puts it, and they do things.

Two illustrations must suffice here. Early each fall the community gives a banquet at which the newcomers, especially the unmarried hired men and women, are guests. At this banquet these newcomers are made to feel that they are no longer strangers in the community. The other illustration is that of two Sunday-school classes. Of the two largest Sunday-school classes in the only Sunday school in the township one is comprised of the unmarried women in the township and the other of the unmarried men in the township. These two classes always participate in a friendly rivalry to surpass each other in numbers. At least once a year each of these classes entertains the other. Early in the summer of 1915, the girls’ class treated the men’s class to an automobile trip over the county one late afternoon and evening. At the end of the return trip refreshments were served. But the most remarkable thing about the affair was the fact that the Sunday-school superintendent stated on the previous Sunday that on the given day “all hired men and grown-up boys would, without fur-

ther notice, be "let off from work early on that afternoon and meet at the church." That they were "let off" was evident from the fact that there were seventeen cars in the procession that afternoon and evening.

It has no doubt been observed that the writer has made few deductions and has drawn few conclusions throughout his paper. But he now wishes to leave this conclusion with you: If his study, of Orange Township especially, does nothing else it will have been amply justified in that it is an answer to the dual question, "What can rural communities do to increase their own human well-being, and how can they do it?" by telling how one community *has* done and *is* doing it.